

Mapline

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The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography
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David Bosse, Editor

Johan Gabriel Sack and his Maps



Detail from *Status Republica Genuensis*. Homann, ca. 1726. Photo by F. Peter Weil

The Sack collection of maps at the Newberry Library is a significant research tool for the cartography of Europe in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The collection has been at the library since its purchase by the Newberry Library Associates in 1968. It is only recently, however, that the maps have been cataloged

and made readily accessible. Consisting of over 1300 items collected between 1720 and 1750, it represents a span of over 100 years of Dutch, French and German cartography.

The collection takes its name from Baron Johan
(continued on next page)

The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography

Director: David Buisseret

The Center was founded in 1972 at The Newberry Library to promote the study of the history of cartography through research projects, fellowships, courses of instruction, and publications. Further information is available on request.

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Hydrographia Germaniae. Homann, ca. 1705. Photo by F. Peter Weil

Gabriel Sack (1697-1751), a Swedish gentleman of independent wealth. A semi-invalid, he occupied himself with scholarly pursuits and the collecting of maps and books. The majority of his books dealing with history and heraldry are now housed in the National Archives in Stockholm.

Through an association with Carl Gustaf Tessin, Chancellor of Sweden and a prominent collector himself, Sack was able to acquire maps while remaining at home. It is thought that Swedes living abroad also made purchases for Sack. The superb condition of the maps leads one to believe that they passed directly from the cartographer/publisher to the collector.

For the most part the maps are colored. The uniformity of the hand-tinting would indicate that Sack hired a colorist to work on the maps. The result is a fine attention to detail and contemporary political boundaries. Apart from its intrinsic cartographic and historic content, the collection is quite beautiful as well; many of the cartouches, for example, are elaborately and even spectacularly colored.

Within the collection are several types of maps. Most numerous are those which could best be described as topographic. These range in scale from coverage of a single duchy to an area as large as Central Europe. Relief is largely shown pictorially or in oblique perspec-



Detail from *Theatre de la Guerre en Espagne et en Portugal*. Covens & Mortier, ca. 1725. sheet 4 of 4. Photo by F. Peter Weil



Detail from *Nouvelle Carte Generale de la Mer Mediterranee*. Leth, ca. 1740.

tive. The representation of cultural features such as towns, roads and political divisions displays more accuracy than that of terrain. Drainage patterns are often stylized and occasionally rather improbable in appearance.

In addition, there are post road charts, maps delineating hydrography and flooding, mileage charts and a number of maps employing qualitative point symbolization. Some of the latter are extremely detailed in the phenomena they portray. Numerous urban views and plans, nautical charts, and battle and fortress plans round out the collection.



Melite Insula vulgo Malta. Blaeu, ca. 1662.

France, Italy, the Low Countries, Germany and Spain are best represented in the collection. Sack had an interest in the politics of his time and paid special regard to these regions. Other areas of Europe, such as Scandinavia, England, Russia, the Balkans and Poland, were collected as well. Only a small percentage of the total deal with the New World, Africa or Asia. The one notable exception is a complete D'Anville atlas of China (1737) comprising 42 maps.

At some point Sack had slightly less than one half of the maps bound into two large volumes, one of which has been disbound for conservation purposes at the Newberry. The remaining volume measures 55x68 centimeters and weighs 97 kilograms. Some contend that the handling of this volume hastened the Baron's demise. Loose sheets were kept in portfolios into which additional maps were inserted by family members after Sack's death. The collection provides a rare view of taste and technique in eighteenth-century map collecting.

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Second Summer Institute in Cartography

The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center will be holding its second Summer Institute in Cartography, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, at the Newberry Library between June 7th and July 2nd. The participants have now been chosen: eighteen faculty members, mostly in history, and twelve map librarians.

The four core courses will be in the history of cartography (David Woodward), the use of contemporary maps as historical evidence (David Buisseret), the drawing of historical maps (John Long), and antiquarian map librarianship (Robert Karrow). There will also be a good many talks by visiting lecturers, and the list of these is at present as follows:

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| June 9 - 11 a.m. Helen Tanner | Cartographic evidence bearing on Indian settlements in North America |
| June 11 - 2 p.m. Carl Petry | The use of cartographic evidence in Middle Eastern studies |
| June 11 - 3:30 p.m. Stephen Wiberley | Editing old maps |
| June 15 - 11 a.m. Christopher Baruth | LANDSAT coverage and its potential as a teaching tool |
| June 16 - 11 a.m. Michael Conzen | County atlases and their uses for the historian and social scientist |
| June 17 - 2 p.m. Barbara Petchenik | Principles of map design |
| June 17 - 7 p.m. Gerald Danzer | Maps for the classroom |
| June 18 - 11 a.m. Robert Karrow | The cartography of Lake Superior |
| June 22 - 11 a.m. Louis DeVorse | The use of historical maps in litigation |
| June 23 - 11 a.m. Helena Wright | Insurance mapping as a source for the history of industry |
| June 23 - 2 p.m. Kenneth Nebenzahl | The antiquarian and the map trade |
| June 24 - 11 a.m. Ralph Ehrenberg | Cartographic evidence bearing on the westward expansion of the United States |

June 28 - 11 a.m.

Theodore Foss The Jesuit mapping of China during the 17th and 18th centuries

June 29 - 11 a.m.

J.B. Harley The British Ordnance Survey as a source of evidence for historical studies

June 30 - 11 a.m.

Thomas Schlereth Urban history with maps

July 1 - 11 a.m.

J.B. Harley Recent trends in research into the history of cartography

These talks are primarily designed to be of use to the participants in the Summer Institute, but many will also be of wider interest. We have some limited space for auditors, and readers of *Mapline* are encouraged to let us know if there is any presentation which they would particularly like to attend.



Calendar

10-17 July

American Library Association annual conference, Philadelphia, PA. Map and Geography Round Table program arranged by Charles Seavey, Government Publications and Maps Department, Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131

29 July-4 August

11th. International Cartographic Conference, Palace of Culture and Science, Warsaw, Poland. (Barbara Petchenik, 827 Pine, Winnetka, IL 60093)

16-19 August

Annual meeting of the Association of Canadian Map Libraries, Ottawa. (Organizing Committee, ACML 1982, c/o National Map Collection, Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3)

19-24 September

American Congress on Surveying and Mapping-American Society of Photogrammetry Fall Convention, Hollywood, FL. (Edwin R. Brownell, 3152 Coral Way, Miami, FL 33145)

Tristan da Cunha in Four Old Maps

In the course of the last two years the postal authority in Tristan da Cunha released three issues of postage stamps which numbered among their designs four that were derived from sources dating from times long past. Since each one holds some interest for those who concern themselves with old maps, a brief notice of the sources in the order of their composition or publication may be warranted.

In the year 1580, when Sir Francis Drake sailed his homeward-bound *Golden Hind* on a course about halfway between the coasts of Africa and the Tristan da Cunha group, there were no inhabitants on the desolate islands, nor did he see them. Nevertheless, the local postal authority took occasion to celebrate the 400th anniversary of his historic voyage. One of the designs issued then reproduced a small segment of Jodocus Hondius's *Vere totius expeditionis nauticae descriptio D. Franc. Draci . . . , Addita ets etiam viva delineatio navigationis Thomae Caundissh nobili Angli . . .*, a map which was drawn about the year 1595 to trace the circumnavigational courses sailed by the two famous mariners. It is interesting to note that the designer, having chosen to reproduce the tracks of both after they rounded *C. Bonae spes* and set their courses for England, appears to have erred in taking the track nearer *Tristan d'Acunha* as having been the one sailed by Drake.

Among the designs of a postal issue released in 1981 are two which belong to the category under discussion. The oldest is Johannes van Keulen's publication, presumably having appeared as part of his comprehensive *Pascaarte vande Zee custen van Guinea en Brasilia, van Cabo de Verde, tot C. de Bona Esperanca . . .* in a sea atlas issued ca. 1700. Van Keulen was hydrographer to the Dutch United East India Company for a time, but from the way in which the islands are mapped it

may be supposed that he had no conception of their shape or disposition.

The other design is entitled *Track of the Corvette L'heure du Berger: Sept: 1767* and identified as having been adapted "From a map by A[lexander] Dalrymple 17 March 1781." His source for the *Track* was a *Chart of the Islands Tristan da Cunha* by Le Sieur Donat made in 1767. It was one of hundreds which he collected, collated and published, first as a personal undertaking after years in the service of the British East India Company, which he had entered at the age of fifteen, then as hydrographer to that organization from 1779 to 1795. When appointed hydrographer to the British Admiralty upon the creation of that position in 1795, Dalrymple exhibited much zeal in his conduct of that office. So much so, in fact, that he is said to have been dismissed on that account in 1808.



Photo by Walter Klinefelter

In the year prior to the release of the two designs described above, the sesquicentennial of the founding of the Royal Geographical Society was celebrated by the Tristan da Cunha postal authority with an issue of four cartographical designs, one of which originated during Dalrymple's time of service in the office of hydrographer to the Admiralty. It was based on a section of the original chart of the survey of the islands conducted by Commander Francis Beaufort, HMS *Woolwich*, and it shows the course of that vessel as it approached the main island from the southwest on April 28, 1806.

Beaufort, the son of an Irish Anglican cleric who drew the first reliable map of Ireland, went to sea at the age of fourteen, and was thirty-two when he charted the waters about Tristan da Cunha for the Hydrographical Office. He became the director of that office in 1829 and continued in that position until his retirement in 1855 at the age of eighty-one with the rank of rear admiral and a knighthood. He has been called (by John Noble Wilford) "the greatest of British hydrographers," and credited with having "created the world's finest maritime surveying and chartmaking institution."

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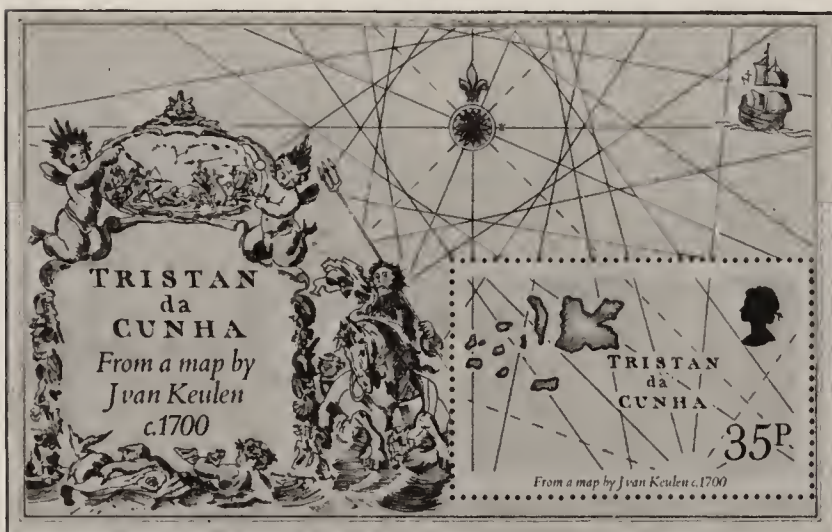


Photo by Walter Klinefelter

The Beaufort survey design was adapted from the original in the Hydrographical Office, Ministry of Defence. Selection of the designs was made by Royal Geographical Society member Allan Crawford, who conducted the first land survey of Tristan da Cunha in 1937-38.

Walter Klinefelter

Call For Papers

In the spring of 1983, the Center for Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will sponsor a conference on "Mapping the Plains in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries." The conference will take place at the time of the publication of the *Atlas* volume of the new edition of the Lewis and Clark Expedition Journals, edited by Dr. Gary Moulton.

The conference will also coincide with the opening of an exhibition of cartographic materials in the Center's art gallery in Love Library. Jon Nelson, Curator of the Center's Art Collection, will assemble the exhibition, which will include both native-American and Euro-American material.

Papers are being solicited for the conference on the following themes—the cartographic work of various expeditions, methods of survey employed, the evolution of cartographic techniques, promotional and commercial depictions of the cartographic work of expeditions, maps derived from the fur trade, the cartographic work of indigenous inhabitants of the plains region, treaty maps, the depiction of the plains region in French and Spanish maps, the vernacular representations of the region. The program committee will be happy to receive additional ideas. Papers will be accepted for presentation through October 31, 1982. However, potential contributors are urged to write immediately to:

The Program Committee
The Center for Great Plains Studies
1213 Oldfather Hall
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, NE 68588-0314

On October 21-24, 1982 the North American Cartographic Information Society (NACIS) will hold its annual meeting in Washington, D.C. NACIS was formed to: "promote communication, coordination, and cooperation among the producers, disseminators, curators and users of cartographic information..." Papers dealing with any aspect of map information and use are invited. Special consideration will be given to topics pertaining to the Society's goals.

The NACIS annual meeting will consist of paper sessions, speakers, workshops, tours of cartographic facilities, etc. For further information contact: Donald Daidone, Newman Library, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061, (703) 961-6131.

Those interested in presenting a paper should send a title and short informal summary sufficient for review to:

Barbara Hartmann
7506 Bluff Spring Road
Austin, Texas 78744

Deadline for submitting papers is August 1, 1982.

Three Centuries of Georgia Maps

The Georgia Surveyor-General Department and the Georgia Department of Archives and History have jointly prepared an exhibit, "From sextants to Satellites." Twenty-two maps, dating from 1705 to 1976, were chosen to illustrate the history of the settlement of Georgia, the history of the cartography of the state, and the general development of cartographic methods and accuracy. In addition to the maps, the exhibit also contains an original copperplate from Des Barres' *Atlantic Neptune* (1780), surveying instruments, and correspondence relating to several of the maps. For further information contact: Margaret Johnsen, Curator of Maps, Georgia Surveyor-General Department, Atlanta, GA.



Photo by Sylvia Adamson, Georgia Dept. of Archives and History.

Publications

Ashdown, Peter. *Caribbean History in Maps*. Longman Caribbean, 1979.

This is not, as readers of Mapline might hope, a collection of early maps reproduced so as to illuminate Caribbean history; indeed, the only historical map it uses is the delightful Blaeu on the cover. But it does have a fine collection of well-drawn black and white maps to accompany the teaching of the history of the region, especially the English-speaking Caribbean. In 84 pages containing over 100 maps Ashdown has succeeded in presenting a wealth of information on a diversity of topics. A highly useful reference tool.

A Collection of Original Instructions to Surveyors of the Public Lands, 1815-1881 / collected by Roy Minnick. — Rancho Cordova, California: Landmark Enterprises (10324 Newton Way, 95670), 1981.

This collection, originally designed for practicing land surveyors attempting to reestablish boundaries, reproduces a series of original instructions issued to surveyors of the public lands, beginning with Edward Tiffin's "Instructions for Deputy Surveyors" (1815). The last instructions included are dated 1881. There is a wealth of information here about instruments to be used, the testing of instruments, marking of lines, the building of monuments, and the legal obligations of the surveyors, as well as samples of field notes and plat maps. The material is reproduced from a variety of sources including various government publications; unfortunately there are no bibliographical references to the works and often the original title pages are not reproduced. Many parts of this book should be of interest not only to practicing surveyors, but to anyone interested in the long and complex process by which a grid of one mile squares was laid over much of the United States.

Edwards, Ruth Dudley. *An Atlas of Irish History*, 2nd Ed. New York: Methuen, 1981. (HB, \$19.95; PB, \$8.95, Methuen, Inc., 733 Third Ave., New York, NY 10017).

The term 'atlas' is perhaps misleading in the case of this publication. While it contains over 80 maps there are more than 200 pages of text. The text of the second edition has been extensively revised and several new maps, charts, and graphs have been added. Black and white maps by W.H. Bromage and Neil Hyslop are hand lettered and quite attractive. Their effective use of screens, line

weights, and symbolization provide a fine example of the possibilities of non-color cartography. The Atlas is a valuable reference source for the military, political, economic, religious, and social history of the Irish people, both in Ireland and abroad. A brief chapter on the cartography of Ireland is included.

Friis, Herman R. *A Series of Population Maps of the Colonies and the United States, 1625-1790*. New York: American Geographical Society, 1968. (\$5.00/\$7.00 overseas, *Historical Geography Newsletter* c/o Dept. of Geography, California State University, Northridge, CA 91330).

This important monograph on settlement patterns and demography is again available. The diffusion of population and western expansion are examined in 23 pages of text and 21 maps. The extensive notes and references comprise a thorough bibliography on the subject.

McQuilton, F.J. "Report on a Pilot Study for an Australian Historical Atlas." *The Globe* 16 (1981): 20-27.

Rafferty, Milton D. *Historical Atlas of Missouri*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1982 (\$9.95 pb. / \$19.95 hb)

This, the most recent addition to Oklahoma's long list of state history atlases, was designed to serve, "educators, students, state officials, businessmen, and interested citizens." Indeed, it is less a history atlas than a general atlas of modern Missouri. There are 113 plates of maps (all but 29 in black and white), each accompanied by a short text; the chief sources for each map and a brief index are at the back. Topics range from geology and land-forms through population, cities, transportation, and agriculture to contemporary electoral districts and a number of others. Seventy or more plates offer the reader only modern data, although the text often provides some historical background. There are four redrawn old maps, three of them town plans. The quality of the cartography varies greatly from topic to topic.

